

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 18, 2006

MPDC ANNOUNCES THREE MORE CCTV CAMERAS TO HELP COMBAT CRIME IN DC NEIGHBORHOODS

The MPDC is deploying three more Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras designed to help combat crime in DC neighborhoods. The new locations include two in Northeast (5300 block of Clay Terrace and 4400 block of Quarles Street) and one in Northwest (unit block of K Street). In addition, the interim camera previously deployed in the 400 block of O Street, NW, is being upgraded and relocated to 5th and O Streets, NW. In selecting locations for CCTV cameras, Chief Ramsey is required by law to consider calls for police service, reported crimes and other public safety indicators, as well as recommendations or requests from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and civic or citizen associations. The use of CCTV cameras for crime-fighting purposes is permitted under the Enhanced Crime Prevention and Abatement Emergency Amendment Act of 2006, which the DC Council passed and Mayor Anthony A. Williams signed in July. The MPDC now has seven CCTV cameras to help fight crime in DC neighborhoods. Plans call for approximately four dozen neighborhood cameras to be installed by the end of September. The neighborhood cameras can be deployed during the 90 days in which the emergency legislation is in effect. Extending their use beyond that time would require further action by the Council.

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9527>
- ① Additional information about the MPDC's use of CCTV, including the locations of all neighborhood-based cameras and a fact sheet on their use, can be found at:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/cctv>
- ① Residents interested in a CCTV camera in their neighborhood are encouraged to submit their recommendation in writing to the commander of their police district. Find out what district you live in by going to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/districts>

MPDC JOINS IN NATIONWIDE CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING; NEW DATA SHOW RISE IN ALCOHOL-RELATED FATALITIES IN DC

The MPDC is joining law enforcement agencies throughout the region and across the country in a nationwide crackdown on drunk driving leading up to the Labor Day holiday weekend. Officers in DC, Maryland and Virginia will be stepping up checkpoints, saturation patrols and other enforcement tactics in the coming weeks. The enforcement actions are being supported by the largest nationwide advertising blitz ever used to combat drunk driving. The US Department of Transportation is investing \$11 million in the new campaign, "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." The new TV, radio and web ads, in both English and Spanish, will run nationally on programs whose audiences are primarily 21- to 34-year-old males. According to new data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the highest percentage of drivers in alcohol-related fatal crashes are male drivers ages 21 to 34 (33 percent), followed by males ages 35 to 44 (25 percent). NHTSA also released new state-by-state and national data for 2005 showing that alcohol-impaired driving remains an extremely severe problem. Last year alone, there were 16,885 alcohol-related fatalities in traffic crashes, a figure nearly unchanged during the last decade. In DC, there were 26 alcohol-related fatalities in 2005, up from 19 in 2004. In 21 of those fatalities, the drivers' Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) level was .08 or higher; in 15 cases, the BAC was .15 or higher. The legal limit for Driving While Intoxicated in DC is .08 BAC.

- ① Read the NHTSA news release and access the latest state-by-state data at:
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/>
- ① Learn more about NHTSA's new public information and education campaign at:
<http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org>
- ① For information on drunk driving laws in DC, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>

AS STUDENTS RETURN TO COLLEGE, THE MPDC STRESSES CAMPUS SAFETY

In the next few weeks, DC's colleges and universities will be welcoming tens of thousands of students for the 2006-2007 academic year. At the same time, many DC parents will be sending their children off to various out-of-state colleges and universities. While college campuses in general are among the safest communities there are, no campus is immune from crime. That is why the MPDC has published a comprehensive "Campus Safety" guide containing safety tips and other important resources. Promoting safety on campus is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, campus and MPDC officers, and other members of the campus community. An important part of everyone's education is learning how to be alert, use common sense, and prevent unnecessary threats to the safety of themselves and others. Most campus crimes occur when criminals are given the opportunity to commit them. By taking away the opportunity, students and others can help prevent crime before it occurs. This is especially true in the case of property crimes such as burglary and theft, especially theft of laptop computers, electronic devices and bicycles. These are among the most common of campus crimes. However, students also need to know how to protect themselves from violent crimes such as robbery, assault and sexual assault. And they need to know and understand the role that alcohol and drug abuse often plays in campus crime.

- ① For a detailed list of campus safety tips and resources, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety> (select "Other")
- ① Hard copies of the MPDC's Campus Safety booklet, as well as presentations on campus safety, are available from the MPDC's Community Outreach Section, by calling (202) 727-0783.

POLICE RECOVER STOLEN CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT IN THE 6TH DISTRICT

Over the past few weeks, the Sixth District has experienced several burglaries of construction sites, with air conditioning units, doors, tubing, tools and other construction equipment among the items taken. The Sixth District, in turn, created a specialized unit specifically designed to combat these crimes. Recently, unit members saw a pickup truck in the 200 block of 56th Street, NE, carrying an air conditioning unit. Officers recovered the unit but did not charge the driver at the time. As part of the ongoing investigation, unit members developed information and obtained a search warrant for a three-story building being renovated in the 300 block of 56th Street, NE. Unit members recovered a number of reported stolen items that were meant for other buildings under construction in the area, but instead were allegedly being used to help renovate the building on 56th Street, NE. A suspect has arrested and charged with Receiving Stolen Property. Individuals who may have been the victim of a construction site burglary, especially in 6D, are asked to call police at (202) 727-9099.

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/list.aspx/agency/mpdc>

NEWS & NOTES

Latest Crime Emergency Statistics Released. The latest statistics from the MPDC show that overall crime in DC is down by about 5.5 percent, and law enforcement activity – including arrests, firearm recoveries and curfew citations – is way up since Chief Ramsey declared the crime emergency on July 11. Access the latest data at: <http://newsroom.dc.gov/list.aspx/agency/mpdc>

Libraries Announce Crime Emergency Plans. DC Public Library Neighborhood Branches have announced a series of programs that will engage youth during critical evening hours. The Mayor's Crime Initiative is providing \$400,000 to support expanded programming for youth at neighborhood library branches over the next several months and to extend hours as needed to accommodate these programs. For more information, contact your local branch library or visit: <http://www.dclibrary.org>

Early 10 PM Curfew Remains in Effect. Young people age 16 and younger, and their parents and guardians, are reminded that the curfew in DC now begins at 10 pm and ends at 6 am, seven nights a week. The earlier curfew hours remain in effect through at least August 30. For details on the curfew, go to: <http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/curfew>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 8/18/06
◆ 2006: 111	
◆ 2005: 118	
◆ % Change: -5.9%	
◆ Closure Rate: 49.5% (55 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 8/12/06
◆ Total: 1,160	
◆ Weapons: 33	
◆ Robbery: 5	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 16	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 38	
◆ Narcotics: 218	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 8/12/06
◆ Total Arrests: 69	
◆ Robbery: 2	
◆ Weapons: 9	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 5	
◆ Curfew Violators: 413	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 8/15/06
◆ August: 123	
◆ 2006 Total: 1,509	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 8/18/06
◆ 2006: 27	
◆ 2005: 26	
◆ % Change: +3.8%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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